

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method for location-based conferencing comprising:
5 receiving from a user a request to initiate a media session, wherein the request defines a target group having members;
selecting members of the target group that are located in a given zone; and
initiating the media session between the user and the selected members.

10 2. The method of claim 1, wherein the request identifies the user, and wherein the method further comprises:
determining a location of the user; and
establishing the given zone based on the location of the user.

15 3. The method of claim 1, wherein the given zone is an area extending a predefined distance from the user.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein the given zone is an area extending a predefined distance above or below the user.

20 5. The method of claim 1, wherein the request includes information indicative of the given zone.

6. The method of claim 5, wherein the information indicative of the given zone comprises geographic coordinates that define the given zone.

7. The method of claim 6, wherein the given zone comprises an area extending out
5 by a predefined radius from the geographic coordinates.

8. The method of claim 1, wherein the media session is a push-to-talk media session.

9. The method of claim 1, wherein the media session is a real-time media
10 conference.

10. The method of claim 1, wherein the target group is defined by a buddy list established by the user.

15 11. The method of claim 1, wherein the request defines the target group at least in part by defining an identifier of the user, and wherein the method further comprises:
looking up the target group based on the identifier of the user.

12. The method of claim 1, wherein the given zone is selected from the group
20 consisting of a municipality and a cellular coverage area.

13. The method of claim 1, wherein selecting members of the target group that are located in the given zone comprises:

determining respective locations of the members of the target group;
determining a location of the user;
computing a distance between each member of the target group and the user; and
determining which members of the target group are located closest or furthest from the
5 user.

14. The method of claim 1, wherein selecting members of the target group that are
located in the given zone comprises:

determining respective locations of the members of the target group; and
10 based on the respective locations, determining which members of the target group are
located within the given zone.

15. The method of claim 14, wherein based on the respective locations, determining
which members of the target group are location within the given zone comprises:

15 determining which of the respective locations are within a predefined distance of the user.

16. The method of claim 14, wherein based on the respective locations, determining
which members of the target group are located within the given zone comprises:

determining which members of the target group are located within a wireless service area
20 in which the user is also located.

17. The method of claim 14, further comprising, based on the respective locations,
establishing a list of the members of the target group.

18. The method of claim 17, wherein establishing the list of the members of the target group comprises:

determining a location of the user; and

5 ranking the members of the target group in the list based on respective distances between the respective locations and the location of the user.

19. The method of claim 18, wherein selecting members of the target group that are located in the given zone comprises selecting members of the target group that are at a beginning
10 of the list.

20. The method of claim 1, further comprising initiating a conference call.

21. The method of claim 1, further comprising participating in a conference call with
15 the selected members.

22. The method of claim 1, further comprising selecting the given zone.

23. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

20 selecting a given area; and

establishing the given zone to be all areas excluding the given area.

24. The method of claim 1, wherein receiving from the user the request comprises receiving via a communication path comprising an air interface.

25. The method of claim 1, wherein receiving from the user the request comprises
5 receiving the request from a client station.

26. A system comprising:
a processor;
data storage; and
10 machine language instructions stored in the data storage and executable by the processor, in response to a request from a user to initiate a media session with a target group, to: (i) select members of the target group that are located in a given zone, and (ii) initiate the media session between the user and the selected members.

15 27. The system of claim 26, wherein the machine language instructions are further executable by the processor to:
determine a location of each member of the target group; and
based on the location of each member of the target group, determine which members are located in the given zone.

20 28. The system of claim 26, wherein the request identifies the user, and wherein the machine language instructions are further executable by the processor to:
determine a location of the user; and

establish the given zone based on the location of the user.

29. A system comprising:

means for receiving from a user a request to initiate a media session, wherein the request

5 defines a target group having members;

means for selecting members of the target group that are located in a given zone; and

means for initiating the media session between the user and the selected members.